

March 7, 2011

Good evening Chairs and Members of the Finance Committee. My name is Henry Chapman and I live in Manchester, CT. I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 1008, the bonding bill that provides money for affordable and supportive housing.

I am a Vietnam Era Navy veteran along with serving 8 years as a sergeant in the Army National Guard. I became homeless as a result of my divorce and an issue with the medication I take for Bipolar Disorder. I am also a recovering alcoholic. I am here to tell you how important supportive housing has been to me and how it has helped to stabilize my life.

When I began working with Chrysalis Center, I was staying in a transitional program for homeless veterans. I was staying sober, and taking my medication but I had no place to call my own. I did not have the financial resources to afford my own apartment, but my time was running out at the transitional program. I had problems other than housing such as work, medication and food. Chrysalis supportive housing is bridging the gap along with social services to meet the needs of our vets returning from overseas which is very important nowadays. Through Supportive Housing Assistance, I have now been housed for over a year. I have continued to work on my recovery; I take my medication regularly, and am active member in the recovery community. I am working with Easter Seals to secure employment. The services I receive through Chrysalis Center's Veterans Supportive Services have enabled me to live my life independently.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify here today and I hope that my words will encourage you to fund additional subsidies in Connecticut.

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